

Amendment and Response

Applicant: Kyung Jack Hong

Serial No.: 10/581,816

Filed: June 2, 2006

Docket No.: M120,270,101

Title: FABRICS HAVING STIFF FIBERS AND HIGH-ABSORBABLE FIBERS ALTERNATELY ARRANGED
AND MOP THEREOF

REMARKS

The following remarks are made in response to the Non-Final Office Action mailed August 5, 2008. With this Response, claims 5 and 16 have been amended and claim 6 has been canceled. After entry of this Response, claims 5 and 7-22 remain pending in the application and are presented for reconsideration and allowance.

Objection to Drawings

The Examiner objected to the drawings as not including reference numeral 15. Attached hereto is a replacement drawing sheet that includes reference numeral 15 in Fig. 3. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to the drawings are respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. §§102, 103 Rejections

Claims 5-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Nordin, U.S. Patent No. 5,804,274 ("Nordin").

While the current invention and Nordin both disclose the use of a fabric that contains a sweeping region and an absorbent region, there are significant differences between the respective inventions.

In particular, the independent claims in the present application have been amended to specify that the stiff fiber region is a composite of microfibers having a diameter of 1.0 denier or less and that the super-absorbent fiber region is made from fibers having a diameter of not greater than 1.0 denier.

In contrast, Nordin indicates in the last full paragraph in column 2 that the short loops are made from microfilaments having a diameter less than 1 Dtex and the long loops are made from fibers having a diameter "substantially above 1 Dtex."

Additionally, in the last paragraph in column 3, Nordin indicates that the short loops are made from microfilament yarns where each filament has a diameter of about 0.3 Dtex. In the first paragraph in column 4, Nordin indicates that the longer loops are made from microfilament yarns where each filament has a diameter of about 1.5 Dtex.

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As one Dtex equals Denier times 1.111, the short loop filaments in Nordin are 0.333 denier and the long loop filaments in Nordin are 1.666 denier. While the short loop filaments fall within the claimed range, the long loop filaments are not within the claimed range.

Using the different materials in the claimed invention enables a higher percentage of the fabric to be long filaments than is disclosed as being the optimal range in Nordin. Because of this difference, the claimed invention is able to provide good quality sweeping and enhanced wiping because of the higher percentage of absorbent material.

In light of the preceding comments, it is submitted that the claimed invention is not anticipated by Nordin. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 5-14 are respectfully requested.

Additionally, because of the significant differences between the claimed structure and the structure disclosed in Nordin, it is submitted that it would not have been obvious to modify Nordin to produce the claimed structure.

The Office Action does not contain an explicit rejection of claims 16-18, 20 and 22. Independent claim 16 includes limitations that are similar to the limitations found in independent claim 5. Independent claim 16 and claims 17, 18, 20 and 22 are not anticipated or obvious when viewed in light of Nordin for the reasons set forth above. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Claim 19 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nordin as applied to claim 16 above, and further in view of Truong et al., U.S. Publication No. 2004/0074520 (“Truong”).

Claim 19 depends from claim 16. Truong does not overcome the deficiencies noted above with respect to Nordin. Accordingly, claim 19 is also not obvious when viewed in light of Nordin and Truong. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Claims 15 and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nordin as applied to claim 16 above, and further in view of Krese, U.S. Patent No. 4,961,242 (“Krese”).

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Claim 15 depends from claim 5 and claim 21 depends from claim 16. Krese does not overcome the deficiencies noted above with respect to Nordin. Accordingly, claims 15 and 21 are also not obvious when viewed in light of Nordin and Krese. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that pending claims 5-22 are in form for allowance and are not taught or suggested by the cited references. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of claims 5-22 are respectfully requested.

No fees are required under 37 C.F.R. 1.16(h)(i). However, if such fees are required, the Patent Office is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-0471.

The Examiner is invited to contact the Applicant's representative at the below-listed telephone numbers to facilitate prosecution of this application.

Any inquiry regarding this Amendment and Response should be directed to Michael A. Bondi at Telephone No. (612) 767-2512, Facsimile No. (612) 573-2005. In addition, all correspondence should continue to be directed to the following address:

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